

question divided between local schools and technical schools.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Anyone wish to speak on that? If not, the question will be divided between subsection 1 and subsection 2, and we are speaking now only to state aid to education in the amount of \$3,813,325. Senator Vard Johnson, did you wish to speak further on that, or was that all you wished to talk about?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: If the question is divided, I will speak to the technical school issue, but not to the first issue.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Okay. Senator DeCamp, we are on the first one, state aid to education. Senator Withem. State aid to education.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, I would like to speak. Was Senator DeCamp going to? I don't want to jump in in front of him if he was...okay. Mr. President, members of the body, I am rising to support this particular override. It is not a pleasant sort of thing to be standing here speaking on behalf of spending programs we know will lead to tax increases. Senator Abboud was right. Senator Warner pointed it out. I don't do it with a light heart or with any degree of glee or happiness. But I think particularly in this area of the way in which we support our public schools in our state I must stand up and speak in favor of this override. First of all, I'm talking in the context of a state aid to education budget that since fiscal year '84-85 has already seen a 5.5 million dollar cut. We have already cut that amount of money. That takes us from a state that is already one of the lowest states in the nation in terms of the percentage of education we fund at the state level. Depending upon what particular concept you look at, we are anywhere from next to the bottom to somewhere in the bottom 10 percent in the amount of support for education we give at the state level. Another reason I wanted to speak was I know Senator Johnson passed out a chart here recently showing a dramatic increase in state aid to education from, according to his figures, 182 million in fiscal year '81-82. I just wanted to point out to you that the chart from the fiscal office maintains that there were \$222,000 million in state aid to education distributed in that '81-82 year. Admittedly, we have increased that to the \$230 million that Senator Johnson's chart shows now. However, most of that has come in the special education area. As a matter of fact we have a total increase of about \$8 million. Special Ed, at that time, has increased \$15 million. You could say then that the amount of money that